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marks for the twelve courses of six lectures each, although not very high, would of itself exclude most of the laboring classes. Nor would it be possible for workingmen to attend the courses which we give between nine o'clock in the morning and six in the afternoon. Evening courses are the only ones available for them. It was, on the other hand, necessary, if we desired to secure the political economists from different parts of Germany, to compress the courses within as brief a period of time as possible. This necessitates six lectures a day.

GUSTAV SCHMOLLER.

*University of Berlin, July 13, 1895.*

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#### THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE.

No more interesting or significant event has taken place for some time in the sphere of economic and political education than the recent establishment of the London School of Economics and Political Science, which will begin work in October, 1895. The opportunities in England for economic and political study, except along purely historical lines, have been, until within a very recent period, extremely meagre and unsatisfactory. Indeed, if one may believe the testimony of English scholars and educators, this condition of things still continues.

It is remarkable that in a great centre of population like London, there have been offered almost no facilities for the systematic, long-continued and detailed study of even the subjects relating to modern industry in the narrower sense of that term; nothing corresponding to the work offered at the University in Berlin and the other educational institutions of that city; nothing even that can bear comparison with the lecture courses in the University of Paris, to say nothing of those in the Free School of Political Science in that city. Even the great cities of the New World—New York, Philadelphia and Chicago—offer in the School of Political Science of Columbia College, the Wharton School of Finance and Economy of the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Chicago, more comprehensive and more systematic opportunities for work than London.

The writer had occasion a decade ago to outline a plan for a school of social and political science, and it is a source of satisfaction to note that some of the features, mentioned at that time as desirable, although scarcely attainable within any near period either at home or abroad, are to be incorporated in this new school.\*

\* Cf. "An Outline of a Proposed School of Political and Social Science." By Edmund J. James. Pp. 26. Publications of the Philadelphia Social Science Association. 1885.

The establishment of such a special school for the study of economics and politics in London, has a significance, not merely for that city or even for England alone, but for the world. The influence which a properly equipped school, devoted to these subjects, might exert throughout the world, from London as a centre, is absolutely incalculable, and the only wonder is that we have had to wait so long for its establishment.

In the preliminary announcement, which has just appeared, it is stated, that the growing importance of social and economic subjects has drawn attention to the need of further provision for systematic training in economic and political science, and the promotion of original investigation and research. While great success has followed the organization of economic and political studies in certain foreign universities, no similar provision has been made for these subjects in the United Kingdom, and it is now proposed to remedy this deficiency by the establishment of this school.

The London School for which an anonymous benefactor provides the funds starts with the cordial co-operation of the leading economists and students of political science in the United Kingdom, and with the support of the Society of Arts and, on its commercial side, of the London Chamber of Commerce. It is organized to meet the needs of different classes of students. In the lectures on higher commercial subjects, which will be given under the auspices of the London Chamber of Commerce, and the classes in connection with them, students will be able to acquire that wider knowledge of modern commercial conditions which is every day becoming more necessary for the successful conduct of business.\* Those students who have already, by means of University Extension lectures or otherwise, gained some acquaintance with economic or political science, will be able to pursue their studies under the direction of experts, and the advanced courses will supply that scientific training which is likely in the future to become essential as a qualification for the Civil Service, municipal employment, journalism or public work.

While much attention will be given to the study of economics and political theory, the special aim of the school will be, from the first, the study and investigation of the concrete facts of industrial life, and the actual working of economic and political relations as they exist or have existed in the United Kingdom and in foreign countries. With this object in view, the school will provide scientific training in

\*The London Chamber of Commerce has already taken the initiative in promoting a sounder system of commercial education in England. Cf. "Education of Business Men in Europe." A Report made to the American Bankers' Association. By Edmund J. James. Pp. 232. New York, 1893.

methods of investigation and research, and will afford facilities to British and foreign students to undertake special studies of industrial life and original work in economics and political science. It is hoped that the school may become, as far as possible, a centre from which the available sources of information on these subjects may be made known.

The work of the school will take the following forms :

1. Public lectures, and classes in connection with them, on the following subjects : Economics (including Economic Theory and Economic History), Statistics, Commerce, Commercial Geography, Commercial History, Commercial and Industrial Law, Banking and Currency, Finance and Taxation, and Political Science.
2. Special classes, arranged as a three years' course of study, concluding with a research course.
3. The promotion, by means of scholarships or otherwise of original research.
4. The publication of books containing the results of researches in economic and political subjects conducted by the teachers of the school or under their direction.
5. The collection of a library for the use of the students of the school, consisting of books, reports and documents illustrative of Economic and Political History and Theory.
6. The organization of an "information department," to assist British students and foreigners visiting England for the purpose of investigation.

It is not proposed to prepare students especially for any examination, but the lectures and classes already arranged will be found useful to candidates for the following public examinations among others, viz., Civil Service (Class I and Indian), Council of Legal Education, Institute of Bankers, Institute of Actuaries, London University (Mental and Moral Science), London Chamber of Commerce (Commercial Education).

The lecture courses of the school, which will be open to the general public as well as to the members of the school, will usually be given in the evening between the hours of six and nine. The classes will be held both in the daytime and in the evening ; but it will not be necessary for students to attend both day and evening classes. Women will be admitted on the same terms as men.

The school year, commencing on October 10, will be divided into three terms : October to December, January to March, April to July ; the first two terms embracing ten weeks each, the third or summer term from twelve to fourteen weeks, with a short vacation at

Whitsuntide. The lecture courses will be given only in the first and second terms; but classes will be held continuously throughout the school year, vacations excepted.

The fees have been fixed at a very moderate figure, being three pounds for a ticket admitting to all the lectures and classes; 15s. for one course of twenty lectures extending over two terms, including the classes in connection with them; and, 5s. for the shorter courses of lectures.

Mr. W. A. S. Hewins, M. A., of Pembroke College, Oxford, well known as a scholar and instructor in these subjects, has been secured as Director of the school. The subjects of instruction have been divided into nine groups.

I. *Economics*.—The public lectures in this subject for the first year are to be given by Mr. Hewins and Professor W. Cunningham; Mr. Hewins giving one lecture a week during a period of twenty weeks, and Professor Cunningham giving one lecture a week during a period of three weeks. Three classes will be organized. (a) Elementary Course, including the outlines of Economic Theory, Economic History of England and Elementary Statistics. (b) Advanced Course, corresponding to the second year, including the History of Economic Theory and critical study of the leading economic writers; or, in the place of these two topics, a detailed study of the Economic History of England in relation to that of foreign countries. (c) Final or Research Course, corresponding to the third year, including methods of investigation, authorities and practical work.

[No indication is given as to the number of exercises in these various class courses; it is presumably, however, one exercise a week in each course.]

II. *Statistics*.—In the second group there are no lecture courses, and the class course, corresponding to the second year, will be conducted by Mr. A. L. Bowley, M. A., presumably once a week throughout the year, though no definite statement is made.

III. *Commerce*.—A course of public lectures in Railway Economics is to be given by Mr. W. M. Acworth, M. A. One lecture a week during a period of six weeks.

IV. *Commercial Geography*.—A course of public lectures of one each week during twenty weeks, by Mr. H. J. Mackinder, M. A., followed by a class in connection with the lectures.

V. *Commercial History*.—A course of public lectures on the History of English Commerce. One each week during a

period of twenty weeks, by Mr. W. A. S. Hewins. In connection with this course, a class will also be formed.

- VI. *Commercial and Industrial Law*.—A course of public lectures on the Law in Relation to the Exchange and Distribution of Wealth, by Dr. J. E. C. Munro. One lecture a week during a period of twenty weeks.
- VII. *Currency and Banking*.—A course of public lectures on the History and Principles of Banking in England, by Professor H. S. Foxwell. One lecture a week during a period of twenty weeks. A second course of six lectures on the Bank of France, by Hon. Geo. Peel, M. A.
- VIII. *Taxation and Finance*.—A course of four public lectures on the History of Rating by Mr. Edwin Cannan, followed by a course of six lectures on the Rating Question, by Mr. E. J. Harper.
- IX. *Political Science*.—A course of public lectures on the English Constitution since 1832, by Mr. Graham Wallas; also, a second course on the Study of Foreign Constitutions, by the same lecturer, the number of lectures not yet fixed.

A series of classes, corresponding to the first, second and third years of the courses and parallel to those in Economics, will be conducted under the direction of Mr. Graham Wallas and other members of the staff.

The lectures for the first year are all given in the evening, and it will be noted that in no case are two lectures of the same course given in one week.

The scientific and educational character of this undertaking is sufficiently indicated by the names of the men who appear in the list of lecturers. The July number of the *Economic Review* speaks in its editorial department as follows of the lecturing force: "Of the *personnel*, an important factor always, it is difficult to speak too highly. Previous training and study and a reputation gained early in life, point to Mr. Hewins as 'the right man in the right place' as director. His co-operators have been chosen impartially as regards schools of thought and with a single eye to efficiency. Professor Foxwell and Professor Cunningham are known everywhere, not merely as learned men, but as successful teachers. Mr. Cannan brings an almost unique acquaintance with the history of economics and the facts of government, and Mr. Acworth speaks with the knowledge of a German specialist of the economics of railways." It may be added that no superior could easily be found to either Mr. Wallas or Mr. Mackinder in their respective specialties.

Ample evidence is afforded in this announcement, of the influence

which the University Extension movement has already begun to exercise upon the course of English instruction. Several of the instructors have done most acceptable work as University Extension lecturers, and the general organization of the scheme of training reminds one of University Extension methods.

Such an institution as this would perform a most useful function in each one of the great cities of the world. The colleges and universities, even where they have such departments as mentioned above, answer the wants only of the regular university students. A school like this can serve the needs of that class—fortunately for modern civilization a rapidly increasing one—whose members are hungering and thirsting after accurate and detailed knowledge of our social, political and industrial problems; though from advanced age or lack of previous opportunities, or business necessities, they cannot avail themselves of the facilities organized and adapted for regular college students. Will not the philanthropists of other countries follow the example of the London anonymous benefactor, and do, each for his own city, what the former has done for the English metropolis?

Additional information in regard to the London undertaking, is given in the appended letter of the director, written in answer to a request for further facts about the school and its aims.

EDMUND J. JAMES.

*To the Academy:—*

There are several points which ought not to be lost sight of in considering the school.

The form which the work of the school will assume is necessarily determined by the peculiar conditions with regard to economic teaching which prevail in England. There is here no "career" for the man who devotes himself to economics; or, at any rate, such a career is only for the few favored people who obtain the small number of professorships and lectureships. Then, the requirements in our examinations, in the universities, in the Civil Service, etc., are so meagre that we cannot look to this agency to provide us with students. We are, in fact, forced to rely upon that wide-spread and growing public interest in social and economic questions which is one of the most striking features of English life at the present time. Hence we must (1) deal as far as possible with the concrete questions on which people desire guidance, and train them so that they may be able to form decisions with regard to them; (2) insist on economics and political science as the most important part of the citizen's education, and show how public work will gain in efficiency by such studies; (3) deliver the lectures and do much of our work in the evening, because we

shall draw most of our students from those classes which are engaged during the day ; (4) admit the public to the courses of lectures, as distinct from the classes.

From those attending the lectures, we shall no doubt draw a large number of students who will undertake a long course of study. It is difficult to give an estimate of the number ; but from my experience of lecturing for University Extension, I am convinced that if London is well "worked," we ought in time to have 2000 students, full members of the school, who will be engaged in the systematic and continuous class work.

We, therefore, regard the public courses of lectures first, as valuable in themselves, in that they supply information to the students which they could only obtain otherwise with great difficulty ; second, as a means of stimulating interest in the more systematic work of the school, and supplying us with many of our regular students.

But it is to the special classes that we look for the most valuable results. In them, we propose to give a three years' course of training. In the class work, the relations between students and lecturer will be close and continuous. The number attending any class at one time will be strictly limited, so that the lecturer may cultivate the most intimate relations with his pupils, and become thoroughly acquainted with their needs. So that if many students join a class, they will be divided into several groups. The class work will extend over from thirty-two to thirty-four weeks per annum.

We hope to make the third or summer session (April to July), as complete as possible in itself, and we shall be very glad if American students avail themselves of it. In the "Research Department," we shall arrange special class-lectures during that session on "Authorities," etc., for different branches of English Economic History and present day questions. Such students also will have the advantage of the "Information Department," which we intend to organize, and in which we shall be able to give very valuable help to those who come to England to investigate.

W. A. S. HEWINS.

*Pembroke College, Oxford.*  
*July 12, 1895.*